

REMARKS

Claims 17, 19 and 31-34 are pending in this application. Claims 13, 16, 17-19, and 31-34 are currently under examination. Claims 1-12 and 20-30 have been canceled. Claims 13, 16, and 18 are canceled herein. Claims 17 and 19 were previously allowed.

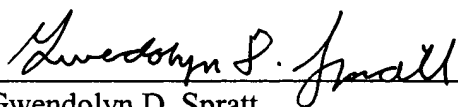
Applicants gratefully acknowledge the withdrawal of the prior rejection to claims 31-34 under 35 USC 112. It is recognized and acknowledged that claims 17, 19, and 31-34 are currently allowed.

Pursuant to the above amendments and remarks, consideration and allowance of the pending application is believed warranted. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to directly contact the undersigned if such contact may enhance the efficient prosecution of this application to issue.

Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 is enclosed authorizing payment in the amount of \$1,170.00 (\$840.00 for the second and third months extension of time after previous payment for the first month extension; and \$330.00 for a large entity fee for a Notice of Appeal). This amount is believed to be correct; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 14114.0344U2
APPLICATION NO. 09/491,146

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and any items attached hereto, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.


Gwendolyn D. Spratt

2-12-04
Date